



IPW

Attorney Docket No. 102792-616

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : Francesc Ayats et al.
SERIAL NO. : 10/597,396
FILED : July 24, 2006
FOR : Water-Softening Method
ART UNIT : TBA
EXAMINER : TBA

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

October 23, 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08.

I. Timeliness, Fees and Certifications in lieu of Fees

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application, or within three months of entry into the national stage, or before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(b), consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement does not require a fee or a statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e). However, should the Commissioner determine that a fee is, in fact, due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

II. Copies of Listed References

Copies of all references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 are being supplied.

III. Concise Statement of Relevance

The Examiner will note that the Abstracts of all references are enclosed.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

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Substitute for form PTO-1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY
APPLICANT'S**

| Complete if Known | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Application Number | 10/597,396 |
| Filing Date: | August 14, 2006 |
| First Named Inventor | Francesc Ayats et al. |
| Art Unit | TBA |
| Examiner Name: | TBA |
| Sheet 1 | of 1 |
| | Attorney Docket Number: 102792-616 |

NON-PATENT REFERENCES

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner's Initials* | Cite No. | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
|----------------------|----------|---|----------------|
| | AA | Alexander Willgallis et al., <i>Zur Polymorphie des Na₂Si₂O₅</i> , Glastechnische Berichte 37, April 1964, 194-200. | |
| | AB | Von W. Hoffman et al., <i>Über die γ- und δ-Modifikationen des Natriumdisilikates, Na₂Si₂O₅</i> , Zeitschrift für Kristallographie, Bd. 129, 1969, S. 396-404. | |
| | AC | Zdeněk Johan et al., <i>La kanemite, nouveau silicate de sodium hydrate de néoformation</i> , Bull. Soc. Fr. Minéral, Cristallogr., 95, 1972, 371-382. | |
| | AD | Klaus Beneke et al., <i>Kanemite-intercystalline reactivity and relations to other sodium silicates</i> , American Mineralogist, vol. 62, 1977, pages 763-771. | |

EXAMINER SIGNATURE:

DATE CONSIDERED:

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²see Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴for Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.197 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.